

THEODORE W. NOYES—Editor
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Roosevelt and Wilson.

In considering the question of what Mr. Roosevelt will do in case he fails to land the republican nomination for himself and is not altogether pleased with the selection made by the republicans, note should be made of the great difference between his attitude toward Mr. Wilson now and four years ago.

In 1912 Mr. Roosevelt probably had no feeling against Mr. Wilson except that of a political antagonist. He was the leader of the bull moose party and Mr. Wilson of the democratic party. Of personal bitterness there could have been a particle between the two men. Mr. Roosevelt's bitterness was toward Mr. Taft, who had refused to retire in his, Roosevelt's, favor. He carried himself toward Mr. Taft as though resenting an injury.

This year Mr. Wilson has no sharper critic than Mr. Roosevelt, who has condemned not only the Wilsonian policies, foreign and domestic, but their author. He has characterized Mr. Wilson as a "logothete," and deplored the absence from the White House at such a time of a man of action. And while Mr. Wilson has not replied specifically to the criticism, it is known that he resents it warmly.

Nobody knows better than Mr. Roosevelt that he more than any other man—more than Mr. Bryan even—is responsible for what he now condemns. He elected Mr. Wilson. He divided the party which had showered its honors upon him, and made way for Mr. Wilson's success. Had he supported his party as he should have done after the Chicago convention had rendered its decision, Mr. Wilson would have been snowed under at the polls.

In the light of these facts, does it seem likely that Mr. Roosevelt, under any provocation, will again make himself not only a democratic but also a Wilsonian asset? The republicans at present are much heartened at their prospects. They believe that Mr. Wilson will again lead his party; and their calculations for November are based on that belief. But, in order to win, they must go to the polls in their old, united form.

Mr. Roosevelt, as everybody knows, is keen for another term or two as President; and his friends, in sympathy with his aspirations and acting under his directions, are moving to that end. But faced with the necessity of choosing between the republican candidate and the democratic candidate, it is conceivable that he will choose the latter. His objection to Mr. Wilson now is not only political but personal.

When a man announces that he is going to Africa to study the monkey language fear arises that the American press agent is losing his cunning and is compelled to draw on his scrap book.

The literary ease of the correspondence attending a cabinet resignation is to be expected at a time which has developed so much need of prompt yet careful expression.

London editors who do not think this country is sufficiently quick to rise in rage should derive some satisfaction from the speeches of Theodore Roosevelt.

No explanation has been given of the fact that in his previous career W. J. Bryan permitted himself to be called "Colonel."

Gasoline and Motor Use.

Statistics of gasoline production and price continue to be presented from various sources in an effort to ascertain the righteousness of the retail rates, which just now are advancing. The latest contribution to this record is a statement issued by the bureau of manufactures to the effect that from 1909 to 1914 the American production increased 170 per cent. This would seem to indicate that the rise in the retail price, which has advanced until it is now between 22 and 23 cents a gallon, is unjustified. But there is another element in the equation, not definitely determined, which has a material influence upon the result. Gasoline is chiefly used today in the propulsion of automobiles and motor boats. The increase in the number of motor cars, to take this one use alone, has been tremendous during the five years of the period mentioned. It may safely be estimated at more than the 170 per cent of gasoline production increase. Cars of a low price have been turned out literally by the hundreds of thousands and absorbed immediately by the trade. They are so common that it is almost strictly true that everybody rides by gasoline power.

It may be that the gasoline makers have taken advantage of this great increase in consumption to advance the price, but after all the matter works out to the old rule of supply and demand. Gasoline, of course, costs no more to make when it is being used by the tens of millions of gallons than when used by the millions, but in every line of business a great increase in demand.

Ex-Secretary Garrison, even when ruffled of mood, preserves tactful discretion and knows the value of the admirable silence.

Explosions in munition plants convey assurance of the businesslike efficiency of the material in process of manufacture.

International belligerency must realize the desirability of preserving a neutral zone somewhere on the map.

It is to be said in favor of the submarine that it is at least compelled to spare cathedrals and farmhouses.

Diplomacy sometimes asserts itself as the art of prolonging an argument until it wears itself out.

As Secretary of War Gen. Goethals might just keep one eye on the Culebra cut.

The Plaza Condemnation "Saving." It is noted in the report of the Capitol plaza commission that the second handling of the properties involved effected a saving to the government of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 from the awards of the first condemnation board. That is to say, taking the lower figure, the government pays \$50,000 less for the property to the owners than they would have got if the original awards had been confirmed. But as a matter of fact that figure does not represent the full loss to those property owners. The account should really state the losses incurred by them during the many months of waiting upon the confirmation of the first award and during the second proceedings. No estimate has been reliably made in these terms, but it is likely that whatever the so-called saving to the government by the second condemnation an equal sum was literally taken from the pockets of the property owners by the government's tardiness and procrastination.

mand is always followed by an increase in the price. If new sources of gasoline supply had been developed to keep pace with the great increase in motor car manufacture—and motor boat use in summer—there would have been not even the semblance of justification for the advance in price. But at present there are no new oil wells in sight. The war has closed access to some foreign sources of supply, and has, moreover, created an unusual demand for this product in America. The development of possible new supplies is retarded by the conflict.

The remedy for the situation lies to some extent in the hands of the motor car owners. If they will be more careful in their use of gasoline, running their cars more reasonably, for business chiefly, and with fewer needless trips for luxury, they will cut down the consumption of gasoline, not only saving in their bills even at the present rate, but lessening the demand and consequently forcing a reduction in the rate. Every motor car owner must realize that a large percentage of his car use is actually needless, and that by careful management he can lower his mileage and as a result his gasoline consumption.

Chairman McCombs' Confidence.

Chairman McCombs of the democratic national committee predicts the reunion of the republicans and the bull mooseers for the campaign, but thinks the President can beat the combination. The figures of 1912 are certain only as applied to that year. We all know that if the republicans had voted for Mr. Roosevelt, or the bull mooseers for Mr. Taft, Mr. Wilson would have been defeated. In his own name and as the Baltimore nominee he did not appeal to the voters as it was thought he would. There was no sulking on the part of the Clark men. Copying their favorite, they plumped for the ticket.

Just why Mr. Wilson disappointed expectations that year has never been explained. After his election was declared, only a languid interest was taken in the figures. That he would hold office by the choice of the minority did not disturb his friends. All they cared about was that he had won.

Here and there when the matter was introduced Mr. Wilson's most intimate friends would say, "Oh, well, he got there. He'll strengthen himself in office. He'll be a majority President next time."

Mr. McCombs predicts the fulfillment of that prophecy. His relations with Mr. Wilson have not been as intimate since the latter became President as they were before. He early declined office under the administration, and has appeared to hold aloof from it. But, as this expression shows, he is still a Wilson man, and wants him, and thinks he will be re-elected.

Mr. McCombs indulges in no particulars. It is a free guess as to what he is relying on. Henry Watterson, another Wilson man, is trusting to luck. There are prominent democrats banking on a continuation of the war, and on the force of the adjuration not to swap horses while crossing a stream. They believe that the country will vote Mr. Wilson another term rather than put a new man in the White House while Europe is in convulsions.

But if the republicans and the bull mooseers get together under a leader thoroughly acceptable to both, and on a platform reviewing the administration's record, something more than luck, and some other appeal than that relating to the war, will be necessary for Mr. Wilson to win. The congressional elections of 1914 showed the opposition getting together and gaining, and foreshadowing a full return of the strength which but for the division in 1912 would have carried the day.

The American public, technically uninformed, does not care a continental what kind of an army it is called, so long as it is a big one.

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This property was pre-empted for public use as soon as the act was passed defining it as a reservation in prospect. It became useless for marketing purposes and to a large extent for renting uses. Many tenants, foreseeing early ouster, left for other dwellings, and the properties thus vacated remained idle in almost every case until finally taken by the government. In some instances owners were forced to sell because they could not afford to carry the properties longer. Some of the lots were foreclosed upon by trustees for failure of interest payments. The earning power of these lands was practically destroyed during many months. The second awards, instead of reducing the amounts to be paid by the government, should have increased them to compensate the owners for the losses suffered by them through the government's delay. Every consideration of equity demanded that the United States make good in this respect, but instead the second condemnation commission, which appeared to go on the theory that the first awards were necessarily too high, assumes a credit for "saving" the government something between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The underlying principle of public condemnation under the right of eminent domain is that no man shall suffer in consequence of the government's preemption of his property. This case, however, stands as a striking example of the injustice of delay and reconsideration in a proceeding in which the property owner has had but small chance for protection.

The Police and Fire Pensions.

Citizens' associations are expressing themselves in urgent terms regarding the necessity and the justice of legislation providing for a definite system of pensions for policemen and firemen in the District. Regarding public opinion on this subject there is no possible question. The citizens of Washington feel that a definite duty is owed to the policemen and the firemen in the matter of making adequate provision for the retirement of those who are disabled in service or who reach the age of retirement. The present method of financing the policemen and firemen's funds is haphazard and unreliable. The money is taken out of fines and miscellaneous fees, which fluctuate, with the result that frequently, indeed usually, there is not enough in the District treasury to meet the regular demands of the pension list. For some years past the pensions have been in arrears, and the beneficiaries have been compelled to accept curtailed payments, with no assurance whatever of eventual remuneration in full.

The United States pays its retired army and navy officers and its judges and its coast guard workers out of its regular funds, with no limitation upon the amount available. It would be eternally humiliated by a failure to meet this obligation as regularly as it meets the interest on its bonds. The District should be put upon the same basis of paying its retired policemen and firemen. An annual provision should be inserted in its appropriation bill for the meeting of this obligation out of the general revenue in the measure required by the state of the pension list, not specifically limited in amount, but with a sufficient margin to meet fluctuations. Legislation to this effect should be enacted at the present session so as to put an end to a condition that has been a reproach to the National Capital for years.

Instead of seeking the philosopher's stone, the European student is now trying to make the laboratory take the place of the kitchen.

Germany will not insist on any conditions of travel that would prevent Mr. Ford and his party from making another trip abroad.

Naval Academy students who were dismissed for non-efficiency did not wake up to the preparedness idea quickly enough.

What might be called the Rosetta Stone of American wild life is being built up by the biological survey of the Department of Agriculture.

Preserving Wild Animals' Skins. The Department of Agriculture in the form of a comprehensive collection of carefully tanned skins of the numerous animals, large and small, that inhabit the continent of North America. The biological survey is making a rapid progress as possible with the collection, because a number of wild animal varieties are rapidly becoming extinct and it is desired to have them represented in the species record of the continent and animal life before they pass from existence and so forever beyond the reach of the inquiring eye of science.

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